Three-Phase Circuits

EEE 101: "Basic Electrical Technology"

Civil Engineering Department

Spring 2021

Introduction

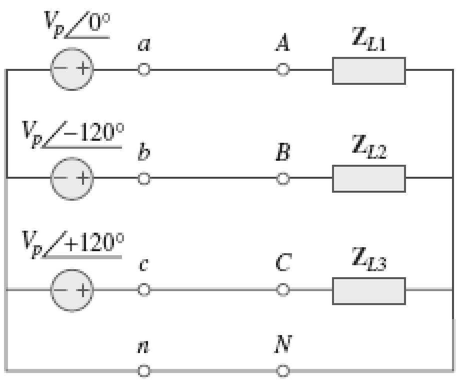


Figure 12.3
Three-phase four-wire system.

Three-phase systems are important for at least three reasons. First, nearly all electric power is generated and distributed in three-phase, at the operating frequency of 60 Hz (or $\omega = 377$ rad/s) in the United States or 50 Hz (or $\omega = 314$ rad/s) in some other parts of the world. When one-phase or two-phase inputs are required, they are taken from the three-phase system rather than generated independently. Even when more than three phases are needed—such as in the aluminum industry, where 48 phases are required for melting purposes—they can be provided by manipulating the three phases supplied. Second, the instantaneous power in a three-phase system can be constant (not pulsating), as we will see in Section 12.7. This results in uniform power transmission and less vibration of three-phase machines. Third, for the same amount of power, the three-phase system is more economical than the single-phase. The amount of wire required for a three-phase system is less than that required for an equivalent single-phase system.

Balanced Three-Phase Voltages

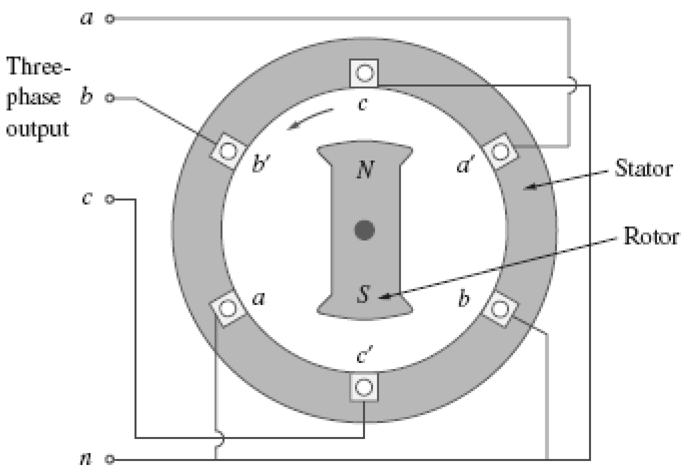


Figure 12.4
A three-phase generator.

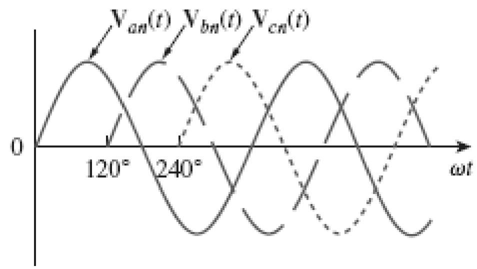


Figure 12.5
The generated voltages are 120° apart from each other.

A typical three-phase system consists of three voltage sources connected to loads by three or four wires (or transmission lines). (Three-phase current sources are very scarce.) A three-phase system is equivalent to three single-phase circuits. The voltage sources can be either wye-connected as shown in Fig. 12.6(a) or delta-connected as in Fig. 12.6(b).

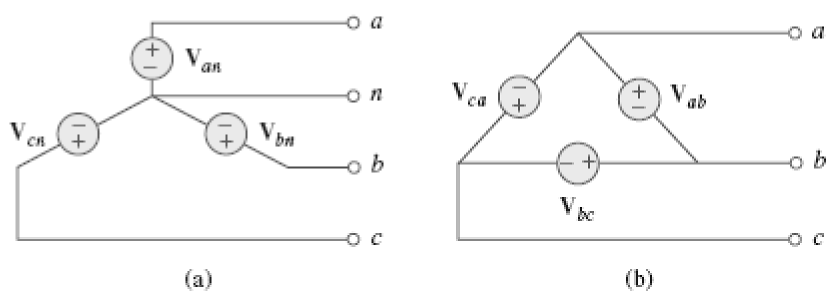
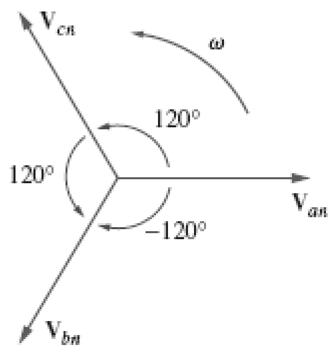


Figure 12.6
Three-phase voltage sources: (a) Y-connected source, (b) Δ-connected source.

Balanced Three-Phase Voltages

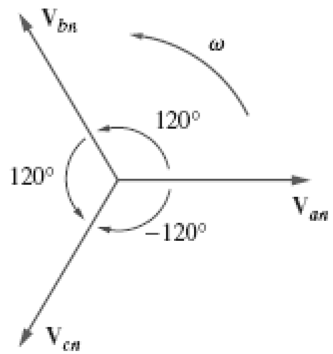
Balanced phase voltages are equal in magnitude and are out of phase with each other by 120°.



(a)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{V}_{an} &= V_p\angle 0^\circ \\ \mathbf{V}_{bn} &= V_p\angle -120^\circ \\ \mathbf{V}_{cn} &= V_p\angle -240^\circ = V_p\angle +120^\circ\end{aligned}$$

abc sequence or *positive sequence*.



(b)

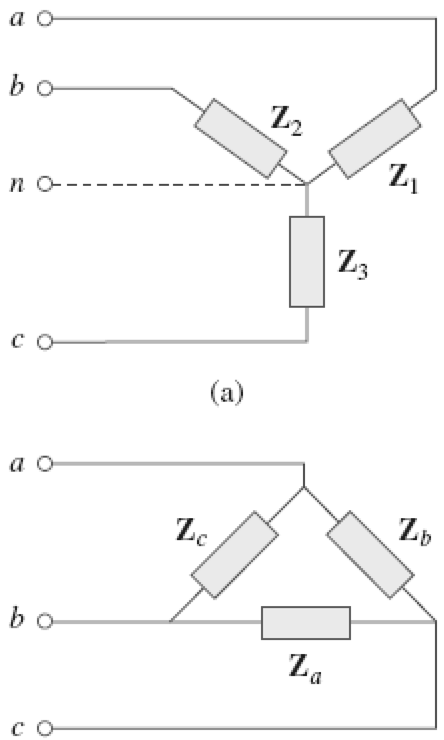
$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{V}_{an} &= V_p\angle 0^\circ \\ \mathbf{V}_{cn} &= V_p\angle -120^\circ \\ \mathbf{V}_{bn} &= V_p\angle -240^\circ = V_p\angle +120^\circ\end{aligned}$$

acb sequence or *negative sequence*.

Figure 12.7
Phase sequences: (a) *abc* or positive sequence, (b) *acb* or negative sequence.

Balanced Three-Phase Voltages

Like the generator connections, a three-phase load can be either wye-connected or delta-connected, depending on the end application.



(a)

(b)

Figure 12.8
Two possible three-phase load configurations: (a) a Y-connected load, (b) a Δ-connected load.

A balanced load is one in which the phase impedances are equal in magnitude and in phase.

For a *balanced* wye-connected load,

$$\mathbf{Z}_1 = \mathbf{Z}_2 = \mathbf{Z}_3 = \mathbf{Z}_Y$$

where $\mathbf{Z}_Y$ is the load impedance per phase. For a *balanced* delta-connected load,

$$\mathbf{Z}_a = \mathbf{Z}_b = \mathbf{Z}_c = \mathbf{Z}_\Delta$$

where $\mathbf{Z}_\Delta$ is the load impedance per phase in this case. We recall from Eq. (9.69) that

$$\mathbf{Z}_\Delta = 3\mathbf{Z}_Y \qquad \text{or} \qquad \mathbf{Z}_Y = \frac{1}{3}\mathbf{Z}_\Delta$$

so we know that a wye-connected load can be transformed into a delta-connected load, or vice versa,

Balanced Three-Phase Voltages

Since both the three-phase source and the three-phase load can be either wye- or delta-connected, we have four possible connections:

- Y-Y connection (i.e., Y-connected source with a Y-connected load).
- Y-Δ connection.
- Δ-Δ connection.
- Δ-Y connection.

It is appropriate to mention here that a balanced delta-connected load is more common than a balanced wye-connected load. This is due to the ease with which loads may be added or removed from each phase of a delta-connected load. This is very difficult with a wye-connected load because the neutral may not be accessible. On the other hand, delta-connected sources are not common in practice because of the circulating current that will result in the delta-mesh if the three-phase voltages are slightly unbalanced.

Balanced Three-Phase Voltages

Example 12.1

Determine the phase sequence of the set of voltages

$$v_{an} = 200\cos(\omega t + 10^\circ)$$

$$v_{bn} = 200\cos(\omega t - 230^\circ), \qquad v_{cn} = 200\cos(\omega t - 110^\circ)$$

Solution:

The voltages can be expressed in phasor form as

$$\mathbf{V}_{an} = 200\underline{/10^\circ}\text{ V}, \qquad \mathbf{V}_{bn} = 200\underline{/-230^\circ}\text{ V}, \qquad \mathbf{V}_{cn} = 200\underline{/-110^\circ}\text{ V}$$

We notice that $\mathbf{V}_{an}$ leads $\mathbf{V}_{cn}$ by 120° and $\mathbf{V}_{cn}$ in turn leads $\mathbf{V}_{bn}$ by 120°. Hence, we have an *acb* sequence.

Balanced Y-Y Connection

A balanced Y-Y system is a three-phase system with a balanced Y-connected source and a balanced Y-connected load.

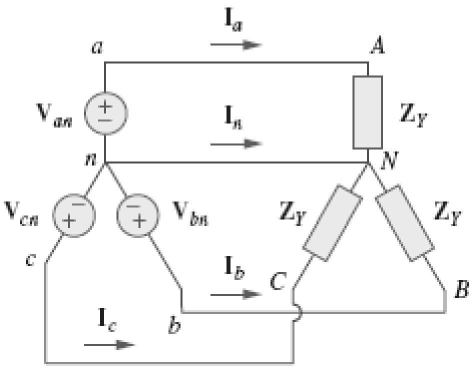


Figure 12.10
Balanced Y-Y connection.

Assuming the positive sequence, the *phase* voltages (or line-to-neutral voltages) are

$$\mathbf{V}_{an} = V_p\underline{/0^\circ}$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{bn} = V_p\underline{/-120^\circ}, \qquad \mathbf{V}_{cn} = V_p\underline{/+120^\circ}$$

The *line-to-line* voltages or simply *line* voltages $\mathbf{V}_{ab}$, $\mathbf{V}_{bc}$, and $\mathbf{V}_{ca}$ are related to the phase voltages. For example,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{V}_{ab} &= \mathbf{V}_{an} + \mathbf{V}_{nb} = \mathbf{V}_{an} - \mathbf{V}_{bn} = V_p\underline{/0^\circ} - V_p\underline{/-120^\circ} \\ &= V_p\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + j\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \sqrt{3}V_p\underline{/30^\circ}\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can obtain

$$\mathbf{V}_{bc} = \mathbf{V}_{bn} - \mathbf{V}_{cn} = \sqrt{3}V_p\underline{/-90^\circ}$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{ca} = \mathbf{V}_{cn} - \mathbf{V}_{an} = \sqrt{3}V_p\underline{/-210^\circ}$$

Balanced Y-Y Connection

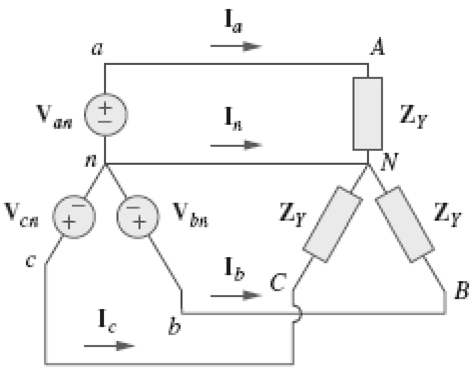
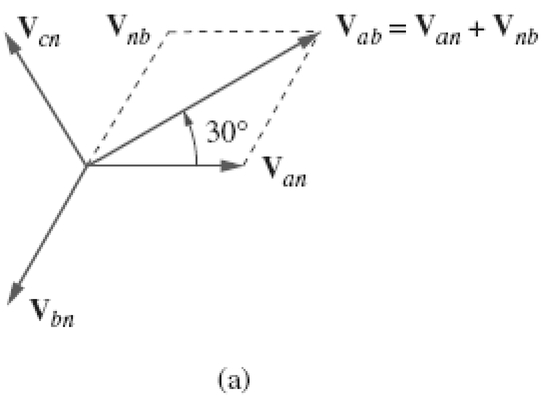


Figure 12.10
Balanced Y-Y connection.

Thus, the magnitude of the line voltages V_L is $\sqrt{3}$ times the magnitude of the phase voltages V_p, or

$$\boxed{V_L = \sqrt{3}V_p} \tag{12.12}$$

Also the line voltages lead their corresponding phase voltages by 30°.



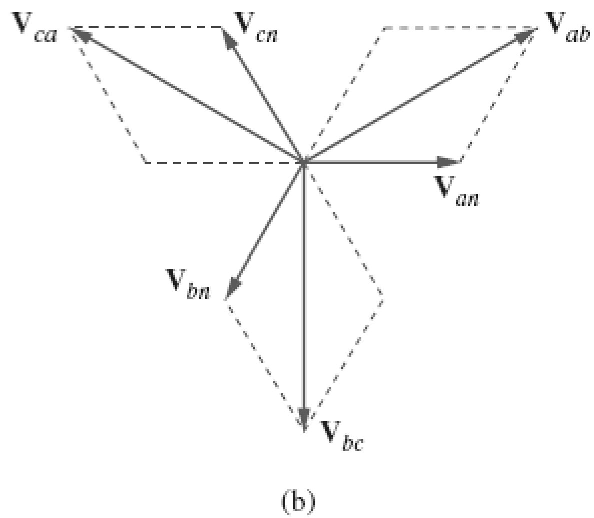


Figure 12.11
Phasor diagrams illustrating the relationship between line voltages and phase voltages.

Balanced Y-Y Connection

Calculate the line currents in the three-wire Y-Y system of Fig. 12.13. **Example 12.2**

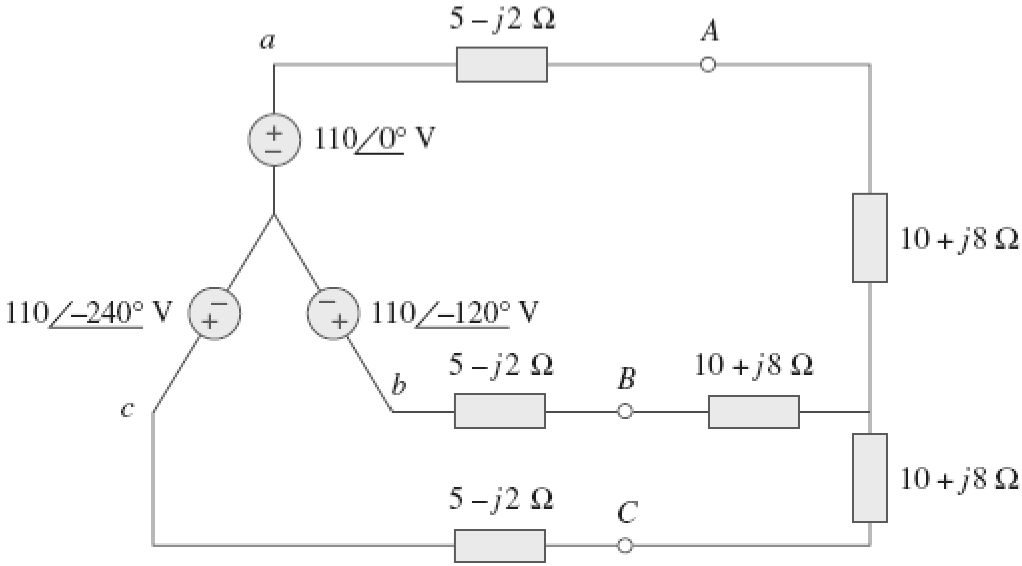


Figure 12.13
Three-wire Y-Y system; for Example 12.2.

Solution:
The three-phase circuit in Fig. 12.13 is balanced; we may replace it with its single-phase equivalent circuit such as in Fig. 12.12. We obtain $\mathbf{I}_a$ from the single-phase analysis as

$$\mathbf{I}_a = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{an}}{\mathbf{Z}_Y}$$

where $\mathbf{Z}_Y = (5 - j2) + (10 + j8) = 15 + j6 = 16.155\angle 21.8^\circ$. Hence,

$$\mathbf{I}_a = \frac{110\angle 0^\circ}{16.155\angle 21.8^\circ} = 6.81\angle -21.8^\circ \text{ A}$$

Since the source voltages in Fig. 12.13 are in positive sequence, the line currents are also in positive sequence:

$$\mathbf{I}_b = \mathbf{I}_a\angle -120^\circ = 6.81\angle -141.8^\circ \text{ A}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_c = \mathbf{I}_a\angle -240^\circ = 6.81\angle -261.8^\circ \text{ A} = 6.81\angle 98.2^\circ \text{ A}$$

Balanced Y-Δ Connection

A balanced Y-Δ system consists of a balanced Y-connected source feeding a balanced Δ-connected load.

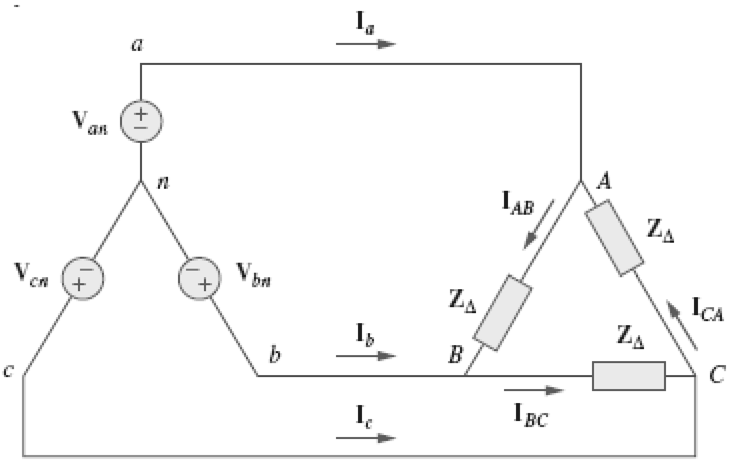


Figure 12.14
Balanced Y-Δ connection.

$$\mathbf{V}_{an} = V_p\angle 0^\circ$$
$$\mathbf{V}_{bn} = V_p\angle -120^\circ, \qquad \mathbf{V}_{cn} = V_p\angle +120^\circ$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{ab} = \sqrt{3}V_p\angle 30^\circ = \mathbf{V}_{AB}, \qquad \mathbf{V}_{bc} = \sqrt{3}V_p\angle -90^\circ = \mathbf{V}_{BC}$$
$$\mathbf{V}_{ca} = \sqrt{3}V_p\angle -150^\circ = \mathbf{V}_{CA}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_{AB} = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{AB}}{\mathbf{Z}_\Delta}, \qquad \mathbf{I}_{BC} = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{BC}}{\mathbf{Z}_\Delta}, \qquad \mathbf{I}_{CA} = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{CA}}{\mathbf{Z}_\Delta}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_a = \mathbf{I}_{AB} - \mathbf{I}_{CA}, \qquad \mathbf{I}_b = \mathbf{I}_{BC} - \mathbf{I}_{AB}, \qquad \mathbf{I}_c = \mathbf{I}_{CA} - \mathbf{I}_{BC}$$

Balanced Y-Δ Connection

$$I_L = \sqrt{3} I_p$$

Also, the line currents lag the corresponding phase currents by 30°, assuming the positive sequence. Figure 12.15 is a phasor diagram illustrating the relationship between the phase and line currents.

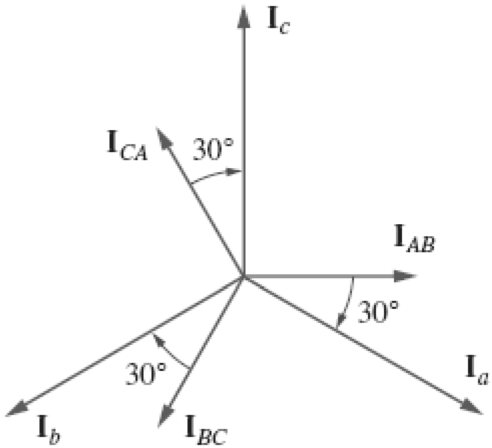


Figure 12.15
Phasor diagram illustrating the relationship between phase and line currents.

An alternative way of analyzing the Y-Δ circuit is to transform the Δ-connected load to an equivalent Y-connected load. Using the Δ-Y transformation formula in Eq. (12.8),

$$\mathbf{Z}_Y = \frac{\mathbf{Z}_\Delta}{3}$$

Balanced Y-Δ Connection

A balanced *abc*-sequence Y-connected source with $\mathbf{V}_{an} = 100\angle 10^\circ$ V is connected to a Δ-connected balanced load $(8 + j4)$ Ω per phase. Calculate the phase and line currents.

Example 12.3

Solution:
This can be solved in two ways.

■ **METHOD 1** The load impedance is

$$\mathbf{Z}_\Delta = 8 + j4 = 8.944\angle 26.57^\circ\ \Omega$$

If the phase voltage $\mathbf{V}_{an} = 100\angle 10^\circ$, then the line voltage is

$$\mathbf{V}_{ab} = \mathbf{V}_{an}\sqrt{3}\angle 30^\circ = 100\sqrt{3}\angle 10^\circ + 30^\circ = \mathbf{V}_{AB}$$

or

$$\mathbf{V}_{AB} = 173.2\angle 40^\circ\ \text{V}$$

The phase currents are

$$\mathbf{I}_{AB} = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{AB}}{\mathbf{Z}_\Delta} = \frac{173.2\angle 40^\circ}{8.944\angle 26.57^\circ} = 19.36\angle 13.43^\circ\ \text{A}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_{BC} = \mathbf{I}_{AB}\angle -120^\circ = 19.36\angle -106.57^\circ\ \text{A}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_{CA} = \mathbf{I}_{AB}\angle +120^\circ = 19.36\angle 133.43^\circ\ \text{A}$$

The line currents are

$$\mathbf{I}_a = \mathbf{I}_{AB}\sqrt{3}\angle -30^\circ = \sqrt{3}(19.36)\angle 13.43^\circ - 30^\circ$$

$$= 33.53\angle -16.57^\circ\ \text{A}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_b = \mathbf{I}_a\angle -120^\circ = 33.53\angle -136.57^\circ\ \text{A}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_c = \mathbf{I}_a\angle +120^\circ = 33.53\angle 103.43^\circ\ \text{A}$$

■ **METHOD 2** Alternatively, using single-phase analysis,

$$\mathbf{I}_a = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{an}}{\mathbf{Z}_\Delta/3} = \frac{100\angle 10^\circ}{2.981\angle 26.57^\circ} = 33.54\angle -16.57^\circ\ \text{A}$$

as above. Other line currents are obtained using the *abc* phase sequence.